Department of State TELEGRA

DECLASSIFIED

B

604

CONFIDENTIAL

AN: 079039B-0666

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 07200 01 OF 03 311831Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 INC-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /079 W
------------------028427 311935Z /12
O R 311607Z AUG 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2196
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 4715
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USUN NEW YORK 1023
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
J/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 7200

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/29/85 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - AUGUST 23-29

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6962 (NOTAL)

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE OAS VISIT REMAINED THE FOCUS OF MUCH ACTIVITY AND INTEREST DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW. DESPITE THE REPORTED STATEMENT BY AN ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO A UN BODY THAT DISAPPEARANCES HAVE "VIRTUALLY CEASED" WE BECAME AWARE OF SEVERAL MORE DURING THE PAST WEEK, BRINGING THE MONTHLY TOTAL WE KNEW ABOUT AS OF AUGUST 30 TO 10. MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS, A PROMINENT DISAPPEARED MOTHER, WAS ONCE AGAIN PURPORTED TO HAVE MADE A STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE GOA AND DENOUNCING ITS CRITICS. HER "STATEMENT" WAS ALLEGEDLY MADE IN URUGUAY AND FIRST APPEARED IN A SMALL CIRCULATION
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 07200 01 OF 03 311831Z

NEW YORK DAILY BEFORE BEING REPLAYED HERE. THE CONTENTS

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 11/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS☐AUTH☐ REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

OF THE INTERVIRE AND THE CIRCUITOUS ROUTE BY WHICH IT APPEARED HAVE GENERATED MUCH, AND PROBABLY WELL FOUNDED SKEPTICISM, AMONG ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. THE DRAFT PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LEGISLATION INTRODUCED LAST WEEK HAS BEEN GIVEN A COOL RECEPTION BY ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE DISAPPEARED ARE INTERPRETING THE PROPOSED LAWS BOTH AS A CLEAR SIGN THAT THE DISAPPEARED ARE DEAD AND AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE GOA TO CLOSE THE BOOKS ON THE DIS-APPEARED. A LEADING ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST HAS TOLD US THAT HE FEELS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS HAVE IMPROVED QUANTITATIVELY BUT--AND THIS TO HIM WAS MORE IMPORTANT--NOT QUALITATIVELY. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) OAS IAHRC VISIT---
THE SEPTEMBER 5-20 VISIT OF THE IAHRC REMAINS A MAJOR FOCUS OF INTEREST AND ACTIVITIES. THE ADVANCED IAHRC TEAM HAS ARRIVED AND ARGENTINE PAPERS HAVE VOLUNTARILY PUBLISHED THE INVITATION TO ARGENTINES TO TESTIFY WITH THE PLACES AND DATES COMMISSION MEMBERS WILL BE AVAIL-ABLE. THE ARGENTINE PRESS HAS ALSO PLAYED UP AMBASSADOR ORFILA'S REMARKS IN AN INTERVIEW THAT "IT WOULD BE A GRAVE ERROR TO BELIEVE THAT THE IAHRC IS INFLUENCED BY THE UNITED STATES." MEANWHILE, THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE THREE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS--WHICH ARE NOW OPERATING AGAIN--RAISED EARLIER THIS MONTH CONTINUED TO GRIND SLOWLY FORWARD. THE ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOW REPORTEDLY BEING INVESTIGATED FOR ENGAGING IN "AN ORGANIZED PROCEDURAL FRAUD." THE CHARGE IS APPARENTLY BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE ORGANIZATIONS USED A PRINTED LEGAL FORM FOR MAKING OUT HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS. FINALLY, THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

UN ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA IS REPORTED IN THE PRESS HERE TO HAVE TOLD THE UN SUBCOMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS THAT DISAPPEARANCES HAVE "VIRTUALLY CEASED" (SEE BELOW), AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN A "QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINE". COMMENTING TO US ON THIS LATTER REMARK, A BALANCED HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION LEADER STATED, THERE HAS BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OVER THE YEAR BUT ASSERTED THAT THE IMPROVEMENT HAD BEEN "QUANTITATIVE RATHER THAN QUALITATIVE."

3. (C) DISAPPEARANCES----
DURING THE PERIOD OF THIS REVIEW THE EMBASSY BECAME AWARE OF FIVE MORE DISAPPEARANCES IN AUGUST BRINGING THE TOTAL THAT WE HAVE SOLID KNOWLEDGE OF FOR THE MONTH TO TEN (BUENOS AIRES 7185, BUENOS AIRES 7019, BUENOS AIRES 6730, BUENOS AIRES 6626). EXCEPT FOR TWO RELATIVES OF MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS, OUR INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT THE OTHER VICTIMS OF THESE DISAPPEARANCES ARE DIVIDED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 07200 02 OF 03 3119137
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 INC-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /070 W
----------028633 3119392 /12
O R 311607Z AUG 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2197
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 4716
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMVIDEO 6157
USUN NEW YORK 1024
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
J/USCINC . QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 7200

INTO TWO GROUPS--ONE OF FIVE AND THE OTHER OF THREE. WITHIN THESE TWO GROUPING THERE EXIST SEPARATE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY RELATIONSHIP, OR EVEN CASUAL CONTACT. WE HAVE NO SOLID INFORMATION ON WHAT REAL OR IMAGINED ACTIVITY CAUSED THESE PEOPLE TO BE SWEPT UP BEYOND THE ASSERTION BY ONE SECURITY OFFICIAL, OF MIXED RELIABILITY, THAT ONE OF THOSE ARRESTED IN THE GROUP OF FIVE IS " A MID-LEVEL MONTONERO" AND A RANDOM COMMENT BY A FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL THAT HE HAD RECENTLY HEARD SECURITY OFFICIALS BOASTING OF "SCORING A COUP AGAINST THE F.A.P." (NOTE: THE "FAP" IN THIS INSTANCE MAY REFER TO THE "FUERZAS ARMADAS PERONISTAS", WHICH OPERATED AS AN ARMED TERRORIST GROUP ON ABOUT 1973, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS WHICH ALSO HAD NAMES THAT CAME OUT IN THE ACRONYM "FAP".)

4. (C) RUMORED REAPPEARANCE----
WE TWICE HEARD REPORTS THAT LEPISCOPO, WHO DISAPPEARED
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 07200 02 OF 03 3119137

IN AUGUST HAD TWICE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIS FAMILY ADVIS ING THEM OF HIS IMMINENT REAPPEARANCE. HOWEVER, HE HAS

NOT YET SURFACED. AT THE SAME TIME, MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS, A MEMBER OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS' GROUP WHO DISAPPEARED IN APRIL, WAS REPORTED BY THE OFFICIAL ARGENTINE NEWS SERVICE TO HAVE GIVEN AN ITERVIEW IN MONTEVIDEO TO A SMALL CIRCULATION NEW YORK DAILY. IN THE CLAIMED INTERVIEW, JARA DE CABEZAS SPEAKS AS A DEFENDER OF THE GOA AND AGAIN ANNOUNCES HER FEAR THAT THE MONTONEROS MAY KILL HER. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST SUCH PURPORTED RECANTATION FROM JARA DE CABEZAS AND IT HAS GENERATED WIDESPREAD AND, WE BELIVE, PROBABLY WELL FOUNDED SKEPTICISM IN ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS CIRCLES. WE ALSO HEARD FROM HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCES, THAT CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE JARA DE CABEZAS FAMILY, THAT AS RECENTLY AS 15-20 DAYS AGO, JARA DE CABEZAS HAD SPOKEN BRIEFLY TO HER MOTHER, TELLING HER THAT SHE WAS WELL.

5. (C) LAWYERS AND OTHER SPEAK OUT---
THE ARGENTINE FEDERATION OF BAR ASSOICIATIONS, THE EQUIVALENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING FOR AN IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RULE OF LAW, AND AN END TO LIMITS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. THE FEDERATION'S STATEMENT INCLUDES A CALL FOR THE END OF DISAPPEARANCES AND A CLARIFICATION OF THE STATUS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED. THE FEDERATION ISSUED ANOTHER STATEMENT TAKING SHARP EXCEPTION TO THE NEW YORK BAR ASSOCIATION FOR CRITICIZING ARGENTINE LAWYERS FOR FAILING TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA (BUT APPARENTLY NOT THE REST OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION REPORT). ALSO A GROUP OF PROMINENT POLITICIANS, INCLUDING PERONISTS, SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS, LEFT-WING RADICALS, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 07209 02 OF 03 311913Z

AND INTRANSIGENTS, MADE PUBLIC A LETTER TO PRESIDENT VIDELA ASKING HIM TO FREE ALL THOSE WHO ARE DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE SO-CALLED "MULTI-PARTY GROUP" HAS ISSUED SUCH A CLEAR STATEMENT ON A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, GIVING IT SOME SIGNIFICANCE.

6. (C) SEE, WE ARE NOT ALONE--
IN A RECENT SPEECH, AIR FORCE COMANDER GRAFFIGNA DESCRIBED WHAT HE AND APPARENTLY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA SEE AS AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN--LED BY LEFTISTS AND ELEMENTS OF THE USG--TO ISOLATE ARGENTINA IN THE WORLD

AS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR. GEN. GRAFFIGNA EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THOSE MAKING THIS EFFORT HAD FAILED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO FAIL. THUS, IT PROBABLY WAS WITH SOME SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT THE GOA WAS ABLE TO PUBLICLY RECEIVE THREE DIFFERENT DELEGATIONS: THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF JAPAN, WHO VISITED AS PART OF A LATIN AMERICAN TOURV THE ECONOMIC MINISTER OF THE FRG, WHO WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; AND A SOVIET MILITARY MISSION, WHICH WAS SEEKING FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE GOA'S PRESS AND RADIO OUTLETS ALSO BOOMED THE RESOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION'S NATIONAL CONVENTION CALLING FOR A LIFTING OF THE KENNEDY-HUMPHREY AMENDMENT SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA.

7. (C) REACTIONS TO THE PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LEGISLATION--

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 07200 03 OF 03 3119Z8Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SS0-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 INC-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /070 W
------------------028671 3119362 /12
O R 3116072 AUG 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2190
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 4717
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USUN NEW YORK 1025
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
J/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 7200

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF DRAFT PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LEGISLATION IS CAUSING AT LEAST SOME RELATIVES OF THE DISAPPEARED TO CONCLUDE THAT THE MISSING ONES ARE PROBABLY DEAD--OR SO IT SEEMS FROM OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE RELATIVES ON THE DISAPPEARED LIST. WHILE SOME OF THOSE TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN HAVE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION MIGHT HELP THE LEGAL SITUATION OF SOME PEOPLE, MOST OF OUR INTERLOCUTORS HAVE DENOUNCED THE BILLS AS BEING "INADEQUATE AND CYNICAL." THE COMMON SUSPICION AMONG OUR CONTACTS IS THAT THE GOA INTENDS TO GIVE NO FURTHER ACCOUNTING OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DISAPPEARED--SOMETHING SOME OF OUR CONTACTS STATE THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT, EXPRESSING VENGEFUL ANGER.

8. (U) AMBASSADOR DELIVERS MRS. CARTER'S LETTER. ON AUGUST 20 AMBASSADOR CASTRO DELIVERED A LETTER OF
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 07200 03 OF 03 3119Z8Z

SUPPORT FROM MRS. CARTER TO A DELEGATION FROM THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO. THE MOTHERS EXPRESSED THEIR

GRATITUDE FOR MRS. CARTER'S INTEREST AND SUPPORT. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS REPORTED IN BUENOS AIRES THAT THE MOTHERS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY.

9. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SPOT NEWS---
--AN EDITORIAL IN LA PRENSA URGED THE RETURN OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES AND AGAIN INDICATED OPPOSITION TO THE IAHRC VISIT AND TO "FOREIGN INTERVENTION" IN HUMAN RIGHTS HERE, WHETHER FROM THE OAS OR THE US STATE DEPARTMENT.
--CLARIN, CRONICA AND THE HERALD ANNOUNCED A STATEMENT BY A GROUP OF PERONIST, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, SOCIALIST, INTRANSIGENT AND POPULAR CONSERVATIVE LEADERS CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PEOPLE AND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THOSE HELD WITHOUT CHARGES.
--AS THE RELATIVES OF THE DISAPPEARED PUBLISHED A PAID AD IN LA PRENSA STATING THEIR HOPES THAT AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY WOULD USE THE DOCUMENTS SEIZED FROM HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS TO THROW LIGHT ON THE FATE OF THE MISSING PERSONS, THE HERALD REPORTED THAT DR. BERNARD STASI, HEAD OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP IN THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AGAIN FLUNG THE CHARGE, THIS TIME FROM GENEVA, THAT MANY PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA MIGHT BE KILLED BEFORE THE IAHRC ARRIVES HERE.
--ACCORDING THE CRONICA, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FAULTED JUDGE ANZOATEGUI FOR FAILING TO START ACTION TO PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPINGS LISTED IN THE SEIZED DOCUMENTS, AND ASKED HIM TO RETURN THE LATTER TO THEIR ORGANIZATION.
--THE HERALD REPORTED THAT STUDENTS AT THE BUENOS AIRES
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

STATE UNIVERSITY HAVE SET UP THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION THERE.
--AN EDITORIAL IN LA NACION DECLARED THAT GOA DECISION *TO ADMIT 1,000 REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA "WAS AN ELOQUENT* MANNER OF ESPOUSING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS."
--CARLOS MARIO ZAMORANO, A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, HELD WITHOUT CHARGES SINCE 1974, WAS RELEASED AND PLACED UNDER "SUPERVISED FREEDOM". HE WAS WORKING FOR THE LEAGUE OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED IN HIS NATIVE TUCUMAN.
CASTRO